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E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR
SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. PORTUGAL: AZEVEDO GOVERNMENT STANDING FIRM

EMBASSY LISBON BELIEVES THE AZEVEDO GOVERNMENT MAY BE STIFFENING ITS RESOLVE IN THE FACE OF PORTUGAL'S MOUNTING POLITICAL-MILITARY CRISIS. ALTHOUGH MUTINIES AND DEMONSTRATIONS BY RADICAL TROOP UNITS CONTINUE:

--FOLLOWING THE CABINET STATEMENT OCTOBER 9 BLAMING THE COMMUNISTS AND LEFTISTS FOR THE OPORTO VIOLENCE, THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL DECLARED OCTOBER 10 ITS INTENTION TO CRACK DOWN ON ALL EXTREMIST GROUPS.

--THE NEWLY FORMED MILITARY INTERVENTION GROUP (AMI)
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BECAME OPERATIONAL WITH THE INCORPORATION OF THE 900

MAN AMADORA COMMANDO UNIT.

--TWO MODERATE TECHNOCRATS WERE NAMED AS TOP OFFICERS OF THE BANK OF PORTUGAL, WHILE THREE LEFTIST ADMINISTRATORS WERE SACKED.

THE POPULAR DEMOCRATS HAVE REACTED ANGRILY TO THE OPORTO VIOLENCE AND CALLED FOR COSTA GOMES TO APPOINT A NEW ARMED FORCES CHIEF OF STAFF (RATHER THAN CONTINUE IN THE POSITION HIMSELF). EMBASSY LISBON REPORTS THAT THE PPD IS DETERMINED TO FORCE THE GOVERNMENT TO RESTORE DISCIPLINE WITHIN THE ARMED FORCES. THE PARTY IS IMPLYING THAT IT WILL WITHDRAW ITS SUPPORT IF COSTA GOMES DOES NOT GET TOUGH.

EMBASSY COMMENT: THE AZEVEDO GOVERNMENT IS DOING WHAT IT CAN. THE ACTIVATION OF AMI COULD IN TIME PROVIDE A BODY OF TOUGH AND EXPERIENCED TROOPS, WHILE THE OUSTER OF THE BANK'S LEFTIST LEADERSHIP IS AN ESSENTIAL FIRST STEP IN IMPLEMENTING A REALISTIC ECONOMIC PROGRAM. (CONFIDENTIAL) LISBON 6006 AND 6029, 10/10.)

2. ASAD NEGOTIATING INCREASED SOVIET ARMS AID?

WITH POST-SINAI II STRATEGY THE STATED FOCAL POINT OF ASAD'S VISIT TO MOSCOW, EMBASSY MOSCOW SPECULATES THAT:

--INCREASING MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO BALANCE NEW US ASSISTANCE TO ISRAEL, THE LEBANESE SITUATION, AND JORDANIAN/ SYRIAN RELATIONS WERE ALSO ON THE AGENDA.

--THE VISIT MAY HAVE BEEN DESIGNED TO COUNTER SADAT'S UPCOMING VISIT TO THE US.

BREZHNEV'S APPEARANCE AT THE AIRPORT WELCOMING INDICATED ASAD WAS UNLIKELY TO LEAVE EMPTY HANDED.

THE EMBASSY NOTES, HOWEVER, THAT ASAD'S OCTOBER 1 SPEECH HAS RECEIVED SCANT COVERAGE IN THE SOVIET PRESS, POSSIBLY BECAUSE:

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--THE SOVIETS WISHED TO KEEP THEIR OPTIONS OPEN BEFORE THE VISIT; OR

--THEY TAKE ISSUE WITH SOME OF ASAD'S SPECIFIC POINTS, PARTICULARLY HIS INSISTENCE THAT ISRAELI NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE PLO TAKE PLACE IN TANDEM WITH MOVEMENT TOWARD A GOLAN SETTLEMENT.

REUTER REPORTS THAT THE COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE END OF THE VISIT INDICATED THE SOVIET AND SYRIAN LEADERS WERE IN COMPLETE AGREEMENT OVER THE MIDDLE EAST. (CONFIDENTIAL) MOSCOW 14505, 10/10.)

3. ANGOLA SUMMIT IN MOZAMBIQUE?

CONSULATE GENERAL LOURENCO MARQUES HAS LEARNED THAT SAMORA MACHEL HAS PROPOSED AN MPLA/FNLA/UNITA SUMMIT MEETING AT HIS CAPITAL BEFORE NOVEMBER 11. THE PORTUGUESE ARE REPORT-EDLY WITHHOLDING THEIR BLESSING UNTIL THEY GET SOME ASSUR-ANCE OF SUCCESS. MEANWHILE, AN FNLA COMMUNIQUE ISSUED IN KINSHASA THREATENS A UNILATERAL DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE IF PORTUGAL ATTEMPTS TO HAND OVER POWER TO THE MPLA ALONE. (CONFIDENTIAL) LOURENCO MARQUES 1101, (UNCLASSIFIED) KINSHASA 9057, 10/10.

4. ARGENTINA: MILITARY FLIRTS WITH INTERVENTION?

IN THE FACE OF MRS. PERON'S REPORTED DETERMINATION TO RESUME THE PRESIDENCY, EMBASSY BUENOS AIRES HAS LEARNED FROM SEVERAL RELIABLE SOURCES THAT THE MILITARY IS ON THE VERGE OF DECIDING TO ACT AGAINST HER. DAO CONTACTS WITHIN THE MILITARY CANNOT CONFIRM THE RUMORS. (SECRET) BUENOS AIRES 6818, 10/10.) KISSINGER

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